

REMARKS

Claims 74 to 75, 77 to 82, 84 to 89, 91 to 96, 98 to 103, and 105 to 108 are in the application, of which Claims 74, 81, 88, 95 and 102, the independent claims, are being amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants undersigned representative wishes to thank the Examiner for his time and courtesies extended during a telephone interview of August 27, 2002. During the interview, the inventor declarations filed on May 20, 2002 and the Adobe Photo Deluxe 2.0 reference were discussed.

Claims 74 to 75, 77 to 82, 84 to 89, 91 to 96, 98 to 103, and 105 to 108 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over four screen printouts from Adobe Photo Deluxe 2.0 (Photo Deluxe screens). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns a user interface by which plural appearances of an interface are available to allow data for the same control to be input in a different manner, the plural appearances selectable by selection of displayed selection elements corresponding to the same control.

To illustrate, reference is made to the present Application and the example shown in Figure 11 (and Figures 11a to 11e). A property page of Figure 11a has buttons 133 to 137, each of which correspond to tone control, and a different appearance of the interface is displayed based on selection of one of these buttons. See Figures 11a to 11e. While each appearance of the interface allows the user in input data for controlling tone, each interface appearance provides a different manner of inputting tone data. For example,

tone is set in Figure 11b using channel-selection pull-down menu 145 and manipulating contrast slide 146 and brightness slide 147, and tone can also be set in a manner indicated in Figure 11e by manipulating the curve 178.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is possible to input data corresponding to the same control in different ways according to an interface selected from a plurality of interfaces.

Turning to the specific language of the claims, Claim 74 defines a user interface comprising a property page providing an interface, and at least first and second selection elements displayed in the property page. Each of the at least first and second selection elements corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearance of the interface for the control provided by the property page. A first appearance of the interface is provided, in the property page, in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the interface is provided in the property page in response to selection of the second selection element and data corresponding to the same control can be input in a different manner based on selection of the first and second selection elements.

The applied art, namely the Photo Deluxe screens, is not seen to teach or to suggest at least the features of first and second elements corresponding to the same control and data corresponding to the same control can be input a different manner based on selection of the first and second selection elements.

Photo Deluxe screens are seen to show a number of buttons grouped together using a “Quality” tab. Referring to Figure 2, there is a “Brightness Contrast” button for controlling brightness and contrast and a “Color Balance” button for controlling

color balance. By selecting the "Brightness Contrast" button, a "Brightness/Contrast" dialog box is opened that allows the user to set brightness and contrast using sliding bars and input fields. See Figure 3 of the Photo Deluxe screens. By selecting the "Color Balance" button in Figure 2, a "Color Balance" dialog box is displayed allowing the user to set color levels for color balancing using sliding bars and input fields. See Photo Deluxe screens, Figure 4. The "Brightness/Contrast" and "Color Balance" dialog boxes are seen to use the same manner of inputting data, using sliding bars and input fields to control the levels of cyan, magenta, yellow, red, green and blue colors as well as to control brightness and contrast levels.

Accordingly, the applied art (i.e., the Photo Deluxe screens) is not seen to teach or to suggest the features of Claim 74. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 74 is believed to be patentable over the applied art. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 81, 88, 95 and 102 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

The remaining claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 39,000

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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